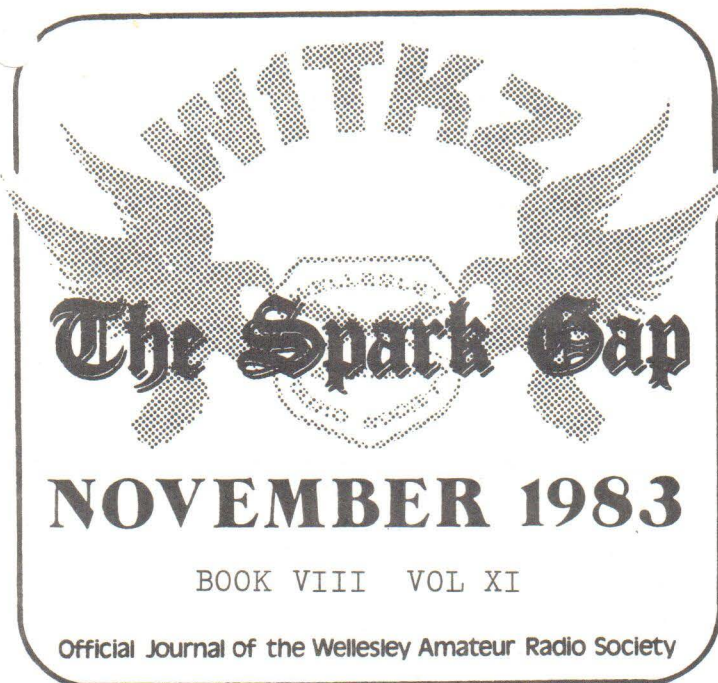




MESSAGE FAIR

FRAMINGHAM MALL MESSAGE FAIR

Yes, that headline is right. This year's holiday message fair will be held at the Framingham Mall not at the Natick Mall who refused to allow us back after eight years there. For those of you who cannot keep your malls straight, the Framingham Mall is the one on Route 30 behind Shoppers World and has Lechmere as its major store.

Erik Thoresen, KLOGF, our activities coordinator has just received approval from the mall so it looks like our major public relations activity is set for another year. Still to be worked out are the exact dates. We will have full details next month.

STATION ACTIVITIES

The sounds of HF operating will be coming from W1TKZ during the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes. This event will be held the weekend of November 19 and 20. Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, and Bob Drapeau, KB1JM are lining up a crew of

operators for this popular contest. If you would like to operate or help finish setting up the station contact either Tom or Bob.

Dues Dues Dues...

Don't forget it is now time to pay your annual dues. The club dues remain at \$8.00 this year. You can also sign up additional family members for only \$2.00 each. Also, please encourage any friends who are not currently club members to join.

You may pay your dues during one of the meetings this month or mail them to the club treasurer, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164. Please use the membership form from the September issue, and please fill it out so that the officers can know more about what you are interested in. Most people so far have been leaving the questionnaire part blank, and this really isn't helpful.

When you pay your club dues, how about paying your ARRL membership as well. If you pay the ARRL through the club, W.A.R.S. gets to keep \$2.

ANNOUNCEMENT

At our November 3 meeting we will probably have a slide show or film in addition to a business meeting.

On November 17 we will be having a talk on traffic handling. Since we have a lot of newcomers this year, it seemed like it would be a good idea to cover this topic before the Message Fair so that all the participants will know what is going on. Traffic handling and message origination is not very hard, and the National Traffic System through which the messages pass is an interesting organization so knowledge in this area is something all hams should have. Hope to see you at a meeting this month.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

November 3, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.
November 17, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

Public Service

The Wellesley Veterans Parade was held on Sunday, October 16 and once again the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society was on hand to help. This year we took on more responsibility than ever before. In addition to providing communications around the assembly area and between officials, we were responsible for lining up the many marching units. This is quite a job as there were close to one hundred units in the parade which had to be assembled on several side streets.

This year not only did we have beautiful weather, but the parade itself went very smoothly. The majority of marchers ended up in the right place and information on those that weren't was relayed to the reviewing stand so the announcer would know who was coming.

After the parade was over, we attended a buffet provided by the parade committee at the Wellesley Inn.

Once again organization was by Dick Paret, WALZLQ, with assistance from Barry Dudelson, N1CCR; Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; Dave Kent, N2AWG; Allan Bacon, K1BA; Ken McNair, K1ACX; C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM; Bob Drapeau, KB1JM; Mike Kiron, N1CGF; and Nels Anderson, K1UR.

"New Tickets"



During the summer months several club members have been getting together to study for the Advanced class license. This study has finally paid off for three of them who passed their Advanced tests in Boston on September 22. Congratulations to Art Thompson, K1ENP, John Taylor, N1CPF, and Thomas Burton, N1BCQ. Their success has inspired them to continue their studies, so they are planning on starting an Extra Class seminar. If you would be interested in joining them, contact

Art at 235-5509.

Speaking of Extra class licenses, congratulations to Bob Drapeau, KB1JM, who just recently got his and will soon have yet another callsign, his fourth in less than half a year. Bob has gone to the top in an impressively short time and is a fine example for all of us.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

We have had a number of people join the club in the last few months and we would like to welcome all of them. We hope you will find your membership beneficial and will enjoy some of the many club activities. Welcome to James Adams, N2CJH, of Natick; Georges Vedio of Needham; Barry Dudelson, N1CCR, of Newton Centre; Marc Hebert, WB1EDF, of Goffstown, NH; Ed Leonard, K1GFQ, of Wayland; Harry Burtman, WB1ANM, of Stoughton; Ken Dono, KQ1W, of Brookline; Robert Chisholm, K1KHF, of Natick; and finally Dwight and Virginia Williams, K1KKS and K1K... of Marlboro. Also welcome back to Anthony DeCicco, WB1BUS, of Watertown as well as long time club president Don Chesley, W1HVS, of Natick.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Dick Paret, WALZLQ, 837-6423

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382

TREASURER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, W1YHV, 242-0341

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, 655-7048

STATION MANAGER:

Bob Drapeau, KB1JM, 883-1132

REPEATER COMMITTEE:

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 899-5924

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR:

NELS ANDERSON, KIUR
92 BISHOP DRIVE
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701
872-5259

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



MINUTES

Meeting of October 6, 1983:

The meeting was opened at 7:35 p.m. by President Dick Paret, W1ZLQ, with a full house of about 40 in attendance. After welcoming everyone, Dick had everyone introduce themselves.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a talk by Rich Palm, K1CE, Deputy Manager of the Membership Services Department of the ARRL. Rich covered topics including the volunteer exam program and TVI/RFI problems. He also answered questions from the floor.

After a break, the business meeting began at 8:58 p.m. The first item of business was to recruit people for the Wellesley Veterans Parade on October 16.

Other announcements were made including plans to operate the November Sweepstakes from the club (operators are invited). Also it is planned to hold an Extra class seminar starting in January. Finally, Bob Drapeau, KB1JM (at least temporarily), was appointed Station Manager.

Dick Paret, W1ZLQ, announced that he would be resigning as President because he was moving to Marshfield full time and felt he would not be able to be active in the club on a day-to-day basis because of the distance involved.

The meeting was closed at 9:23 p.m.

WARS NET

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society net has been running for over a month now with participation improving each week. Around ten check-ins has been average so far, including many of our new members. In addition to giving everyone a chance to talk and get to know each other better, the NCS gives a report on happenings in the club and in Amateur Radio in general. This makes it possible to keep up with the news of Amateur Radio better than is possible with monthly magazines.

The only thing the net needs is you. Please plan on checking in next Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on 147.63/03.

Participants so far have been: K1OGF, N1CPE, K1UR, KB1JM, K1BA, WB1EDF, N1ADY, K1ENP, N2AWG, N6JBA, N1CCR, N1CPF, N2CJH, W1LMU, WB1BUM, W1ZLO, K1JWE, WB1FCY.

THE WESTLINK REPORT

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

The widely heralded Air Force letter opposing No Code was apparently only a statement by some Air Force MARS people that their MARS appointments that include HF band operations would still require CW ability; the letter was not a statement of Air Force policy.

Westlink Report, October 7, 1983

profiles

by Nels Anderson, KLUR

This month we begin a (hopefully) continuing series of profiles of club members. Those of you who have been around a while may remember that we used to do this a few years back. These profiles will be written based on a questionnaire completed by the person being profiled. If you receive a questionnaire, please fill it out and return it to the editor.

This month Profiles looks at Mort Cohan, KALIU. Mort joined the club several years ago upon moving here from New Jersey where he grew up and lived for many years.

Mort became interested in Amateur Radio through his work in computers and electronics and was first licensed when still in New Jersey as WB2SBW. After moving permanently to Massachusetts he obtained his current call. Mort holds an Advanced class license.

Mort, who is a Senior Engineering Manager at DEC, is mainly interested in the technical side of Amateur Radio. His favorite activities are 75 meter DXing, SSTV and satellites and he is in the process of constructing packet radio equipment. Mort has given talks at the club on several of these subjects. Because of his technical expertise, Mort was recently named Technical Coordinator for the Eastern Massachusetts ARRL section, under the new Field Appointment structure.

Mort's station consists of an Icom IC-740 with Heath SB-200 amp for HF, a transverter and 80 watt amp for 70 cm and a KLM-2700 and 140 watt amp for 2 meters. Outside he has several "monster" wire antennas in the trees for HF, a 16 element beam for 2 meter terrestrial work, and az-el mounted 70 cm and 2 meter antennas for satellite work.

In addition to Amateur Radio, Mort is also interested in gardening, especially old and unusual types of roses.

Mort lives in Medfield with his wife Ruth, daughter Cynthia and son Michael.

Hearabouts....

At its September 22 meeting, the FCC Commissioners adopted a Report and Order in Docket No. 83-27, concerning volunteer examiners. One way the Report and Order differs from earlier proposals is that it envisions the establishing of regional, as opposed to national, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. Apparently this arrangement was made in case ARRL chose not to participate in the program, in order to expand the number of potential coordinators.

Another difference is that a "Chinese Wall" (legal jargon for procedures to isolate certain people from access to "sensitive" information, will be required between personnel involved in the administration of the examiner program, and personnel involved in the preparation of study material. The concern is that those preparing the material must not know, nor can the appearance exist of their knowing, the actual questions from the pool that will be used in a given month. This will not necessarily require that a separate corporate identity be established for the VEC function.

The following points are covered in the Report and Order:

1. Provisions have been kept in the FCC rules providing for retest of anyone who receives a license based on an examination administered by volunteers.

2. The program will start with General and Technician; the other two classes will be added later.

3. The program deletes the "tear chief" concept. Accordingly, in an exam for General Class, three Advanced class licensees can be the team.

4. A person whose license has been revoked can never be a volunteer examiner even if he or she later reobtains an Amateur license.

5. Thirty days advance registration will be required of applicants and the volunteer examiner team must notify the field office in whose district it is when the examinations will take place.

6. Instant upgrading will be permissible.

7. The telegraphy test remains the same as now, i.e. it allows, but does not require, a sending test.

8. The volunteer examiner must be 18 years of age and not related to the applicant.

9. Finally, the Order makes it perfectly clear that the volunteer examiner coordinator must admit anyone to all tests, whether or not they are a member or non-member of any organization.

Because editorial changes must be made in the Report and order prior to release, it will be some days before we see the actual text. In the meantime, don't get too excited about rumors you may hear that run contrary to the above.

ARRL Letter, September 29, 1983

EVENTS

A group of about ten W.A.R.S. members was in attendance at the first annual fall Hosstraders Swapfest in Deerfield, N.H. on Saturday, October 8. This year marks the first time that two Swapfests have been held in Deerfield during the same year and it looks like the fall event will become as much of a tradition as the spring one.

There was a big crowd on hand which, although not quite as large as in the spring, made this larger than any other flea market in New England. Many people even camped out on Friday night so as to be among the first there when the dealing started on Sat-

urday morning (actually I didn't see anyone setting up until 5:00 a.m. so you really don't have to get there early--hi!). It was a mighty cold night this time as the W.A.R.S. overnight contingent of K1BA, KALJWE, N2AWG and K1UR will tell you. Once the sun came up on Saturday it was just beautiful though.

If you've never attending one of these swapfests you don't know what you're missing. The next one should be the first or second weekend in May, so mark it on your calendar.

Auctions / Flea Markets

October 30: Framingham ARA flea market.

November 19: 1200 Radio Club/Waltham Radio Club auction.

Hamnews

California hams with 6-land callsigns will have a chance to commemorate the 23rd Olympiad in 1984. Responding to a petition from Richard Jay Ward, NG6O, the Chief of the Private Radio Bureau, Bob Foosaner, has waived the FCC's prohibition against special callsigns. For the months of July and August, 1984, the FCC will permit Amateurs in California who have the numeral 6 in their callsigns to substitute either "23" (as in 23rd Olympic Games) or "84" on a voluntary basis.

ARRL Letter, September 29, 1983

Civil action may be taken against jammers or others illegally using a radio because of what may become a landmark decision in a New York court.

Just Hurwitz of the New York State Supreme Court--Borough of Richmond has ruled in favor of three repeater groups who had filed suit against a non-Amateur they claimed was the source of jamming and harassment of the repeater stations.

Westlink Report, October 7, 1983

CHUCKLE KORN-LR

BUDGET CUTS AFFECT HAM RADIO

by AA9M

from GEARVAKf, via ARNS

Federal Communications Communicator Marvin Larpsnogg announced yesterday that budget cutbacks by Washington will impact ham band activity. Larpsnogg stated that the unannounced shutdown of the ten meter band last Tuesday was only a sample of things to come. U.S. Amateurs quickly noted the event. Comments heard on fifteen meters ranged from statements like, "Ten is dead this morning!" to "Can't even get across town on ten today!" Larpsnogg said the band closures will be unannounced and more frequent and are related only to cutbacks. "There is absolutely no connection with government programs to limit foreign imports, although the JA prefix will be the first to feel the cutbacks," he explained.

This is not the first time that Amateurs have been affected by government spending priorities. During the late 1960's, massive funding was directed to the U.S. Lunar Landing Program and away from solar sunspot support projects. The consequences were felt by Amateurs world wide with lowered sunspot activity continuing for almost five years.

Mr. Larpsnogg predicted that unless funding policies are reversed, we will see fewer and fewer days when the higher maintenance cost bands like ten and six meters will be opened up. In response to further questioning, Larpsnogg pointed out that in those instances where maintenance funding has been cut completely off, bands like 10 GHz and 220 MHz have been dead for years. "Our funding for 220 MHz was only \$14.98 last year which was not enough for a single opening," he said.

Hamnews

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has published its new regulations on RF exposure in the Massachusetts Register. New rules became effective October 1. While ARRL is not generally happy with the idea of a state government adopting regulations which affect FCC licensees, it is gratifying to see on page 1 the following:

"If 105 CMR 122.000 conflicts with any Federal Regulations pertaining to exposure of the general public to RF/microwave radiation, the Federal Regulations will apply.

"In addition, should 105 CMR 122.000, as it applies to FCC licensees, conflict with any Federal Regulations, Standards or Guidelines, other than those pertaining to exposure of the general public, consideration shall be given to such Federal Regulations, Standards, or Guidelines if requested by the affected facility."

In general terms, however, the Amateur Radio Service must comply with 122.015, Radio Frequency Exposure Limits. Section 122.015 establishes exposure limits which are more strict by a factor of five than the latest ANSI C95.1-1982 Standard. Another section, 122.021, exempts "Amateur intermittent single source emitters of less than 1 kw average output" from having to obtain approval and giving notification to the Director of Health.

ARRL Letter, September 29, 1983

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The FCC issued a news release on October 7 granting the extension of Amateur station and operator license terms from five to ten years (P.R. Docket No. 83-337). The renewal grace period is two years. The new license terms will be phased in as license come up for renewal. Details will be in December QST.

ARRL Letter, October 13, 1983

REPEATER

As many of you may have noticed, our repeater suddenly went off the air just before the Columbus Day weekend. The good news is that for once it was not a technical problem. The bad news is that the town agency that controls Maugus Hill where our receiver is located wanted us out.

The details make a rather long and confusing story. However, the final result is that with the aid of Wellesley Fire Chief Steve Black and the Wellesley Selectmen we are now being allowed to stay. They are still talking about making changes on the hill so we may have to do some work but it looks like we will remain on the air.

Space Shuttle

As you probably know, the next space shuttle mission will provide a chance for the first Amateur Radio manned space communications. We are planning on making a club effort out of this and you are invited to take part. We intend to set up the required two meter equipment at the club and operate as W1TKZ. Actually the main reason for this is Channel 5 has agreed to cover this story for their evening news and we certainly want to take advantage of this chance for some good P.R.

The only question is of timing. It now appears that the launch will be put off for some time. In addition, the original schedule would put our best opportunity to contact the shuttle during most peoples' normal working hours. This is also subject to last minute change however.

Nels Anderson, K1UR, will be coordinating the club efforts. Please contact him if you are interested or for more information. There are also several telephone numbers set up for shuttle news. They are: ARRL 203-666-0688, Westlink 213-465-5550, and Electra/Bearcat 1-800-SCANNER.

Hamnews

A Wisconsin Amateur was shocked recently when the local police showed up at his door ordering him to stop operating. The local enforcement officers also threatened to confiscate the Amateur's radio equipment. The cause: RFI/TVI. He lives in an apartment complex with a centralized TV antenna system with very poor shielding. The Amateur's comment: this is really a lot of trouble for a hobby! ARRL Hq. has referred him to a participating Volunteer Counsel.

ARRL Letter, September 14, 1983

The new Novice testing procedures have been in effect for several weeks now, and some feedback has filtered back to Hq. from the trenches. In general, both the givers and the takers of Novice exams seem to be pleased. It appears that about three weeks has been chopped off between the time the applicant takes the code exam and the receipt of the license. With less waiting, it is easier to keep the enthusiasm high. Negative comments have to do with the perceived differences in level of difficulty from one question to the next, the subjective aspects of grading essay-type exams and the perceived increased possibility for abuse of the system.

ARRL Letter, September 14, 1983

Attention Special Service Club members: The ARRL Club and Training Branch announces the SSC Logo Contest! Entries will be judged on how well the logo symbolized Amateur Radio clubs and expresses superior achievement. Entries must be submitted on a white piece of 8 1/2 x 11 paper, and incorporate the ARRL diamond in a prominent location, spell out "Special Service Club" and be legible when reduced and embroidered roughly 4-6 inches. Entries must be received no later than January 15, 1984. This contest is for ARRL members only.

ARRL Letter, September 14, 1983

Hamnews

Gary Kerr, ex-WA6JIY of Palo Alto, California, was fined \$2000 for operating an unlicensed radio station on April 13, 1983 (willful violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act). Kerr previously held a General Class license, but was denied a renewal after an FCC hearing and subsequent appeal on charges of causing intentional interference to Bay Area 2 meter repeater systems.

Complaints that Kerr was still using Amateur frequencies caused a field investigation to be started. The results were that he was in fact using an unlicensed transmitter on a frequency used by a San Francisco repeater.

Since Kerr has not as yet paid the fine, the Commission is now considering referring the matter to the US Attorney for collection in Federal Court proceedings. He has also been warned that continued violations may result in more fines and/or criminal prosecution.

Westlink Report, September 23, 1983

The rumor that the CIA killed the No Code docket appears to be unfounded. A high ranking FCC official who spoke with us by telephone said that as far as he and the Commissioners know, the CIA has not entered into the No Code controversy, either officially or unofficially.

We were informed that rumors of very mild congressional pressure on the matter were true, but that it would have little or no impact on the final decision on the issue.

Expect a Report and Order on PR Docket 83-28 around the first of next year.

Westlink Report, September 23, 1983

The ARRL says that Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, has changed his mind and will back the imposition of fees to offset the expenses of volunteer

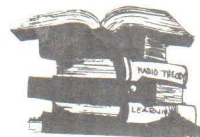
examiners administering Amateur testing.

According to conversations with ARRL Public Information Officer Peter O'Dell, KB1N, and League Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD, the League's Washington area Coordinator Perry Williams, WLEUD, met with the Senator on September 27th. At the meeting, K7UGA indicated that he was now in a position to back such enabling legislation and would introduce an amendment to Public Law 97-259 that would permit Volunteer Examination Coordinators to collect a fee of \$4 per exam per applicant, with an escalator clause to cover increased future administrative costs.

Imlay told the Westlink Report that it was his understanding that the Senator would introduce the measure in a very short time, but cautioned that until he took the action, there was no way to be absolutely sure it would occur.

Westlink Report, October 7, 1983

education corner



We have just received some last minute word on the Extra Class Seminar. It will be starting this month, with the first meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. The seminars will be held at the club headquarters, 211 Washington Street, Wellesley.

This seminar will be different from the usual classes that many of you are used to. Instead of having an instructor covering the material for you to watch, the seminar is run by the members. By working together to cover the material in various published study guides, the members learn the material as well if not better than they would from an instructor.

If you are interested in getting the top of the line license, just show up on November 2 or any following Wednesday. For more information, you may contact Art Thompson, KA1ENP, at 235-5509.